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BOROUGH
OF
CHIPPENHAM

1954

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OF
CHIPPENHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER
- 1954 -



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne and Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham, and Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

S.F. French, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

R.P. Pengelly, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

(c) The Committee of the Borough Council dealing directly with Public Health matters is:-

The Public Health & Highways Committee.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Chippenham Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report
for the year ended 31st. December, 1954.

The health of the community has been satisfactory during 1954, little infectious disease occurred, the birth rate was higher and the death rate lower than the previous year. Coronary Disease still figures prominently as a cause of death, especially in the male population.

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1954, coming into operation on the 5th. July, gave but little time for arrangements to be made on the decontrol of meat and livestock; details will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The care and housing of the aged will constitute an increasing responsibility. The expectation of life for males over 65 years of age has not greatly increased, but more of the population are now attaining the age of 65 than was formally the case. The formation of the Chippenham Old Peoples' Welfare Committee in November, 1954 will be of great value in the future. Further details on this important subject is given in the report.

The attention of the Council is directed to the new legislation pertaining to health which came into operation during the year.

I am grateful to Mr. French, the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Staff of the Council for their help during the year and assistance in compiling this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,843
Population	15080
Number of inhabited houses(end of 1954 according to the Rate Book)	4546
Rateable Value	£106,102
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£425

VITAL STATISTICSLIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	126	97	223
Illegitimate	1	3	4
Total Live Births	127	100	227

Birth Rate for the Borough. 15.05 per 1000
of the population

Comparative Rate for England & Wales 15.2 per 1000
of the population.

The Birth Rate shows an increase as compared with the rate for 1953 when it was 14.2 per 1000 of the population. The comparative rate for England & Wales shows a slight decrease as compared with the previous year when it was 15.5 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total Still Births	2	2	4

Rate per 1000 of the population 0.26

Comparative Rate per 1000 of the population
(England & Wales) 0.35

The Still Birth Rate shown above is lower than the rate for 1953 when it was 0.46 per 1000 of the population. There has been no change in the comparative rate for England & Wales.

DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u> 122	<u>Female</u> 100	<u>Total</u> 222
Death Rate for the Borough			14.7 per 1000 of the population
Comparative Rate for England & Wales			11. per 1000 of the population,

Although the Death Rate for the Borough is slightly higher than the comparative rate for England & Wales, it is nevertheless lower than the rate for 1953 when it was 15.7 per 1000 of the population.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	-	4
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	4	5	9
" " Lung, bronchus	2	-	2
" " breast	-	4	4
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	11	11	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	2	2
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	14	25
Coronary disease angina	15	11	26
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
Other heart disease	29	29	58
Other circulatory disease	4	4	8
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	3	-	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	3	-	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	10	24
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	4	1	5
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	122	100	222

Cancer and Heart Disease jointly accounted for approximately 41% of the total recorded deaths in the Borough during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	5	1	6

Infant Mortality Rate:-

Number of deaths of Infants under 1
year of age per 1000 live births.26.4

Comparative Rate for England & Wales
per 1000 related live births 25.5

Table "B"

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	1	5

The figures shown in Table "B" have already been included in Table "A" above and that five out of the total of six infant deaths occurred during the first month of life.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1954 as compared with the years 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

<u>DISEASE</u>	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	14	14	17	17	26	25	14	13	19	19	11	11
Whooping Cough	24	24	22	22	47	47	2	2	48	48	7	7
Diphtheria	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Measles	17	17	87	87	188	188	6	6	198	198	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	4	2	-	-	8	2	-	-	2	-	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	29	29	31	31	21	21
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Erysipelas	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	7	7	7	7	2	2	4	4	2	2	5	5
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	76	69	141	136	277	270	60	59	303	301	50	49

"a" = numbers originally notified

"b" = Final numbers after correction.

Numerically, the total cases of infectious disease notified during 1954 was the lowest for some years.

The two cases of poliomyelitis notified did not develop serious symptoms or suffer any residual after affects of the disease. It is gratifying to note also that no cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

The two cases of Diphtheria notified were both confirmed. The patients were sisters, one aged 5 and the other aged 3 and Laboratory Reports on swabs confirmed *C. Diphtheriae Mitis* present in both cases. The 5 year old child had received only one immunising injection at 8 months of age, whilst her 3 year old sister had not been immunised at all.

Following extensive investigations at the home of the children and at the school attended by the elder child, no other cases of this disease were found. The source of infection was not traced.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Distribution according to age
Notifications received during 1954- Corrected Figures.

<u>DISEASE</u>	Under 1 year.	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over	Age not known	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	3	6	-	-	-	-	1	11
Whooping Cough	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Diphtheria	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	10	11	-	-	-	21
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	2	12	8	11	12	1	2	1	49

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a slight increase as compared with the previous year.

NEW CASES DURING.

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	12	1	13
1949	10	3	13
1950	6	2	8
1951	6	1	7
1952	10	3	13
1953	5	1	6
1954	7	1	8

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1954 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15		1						
25	1		1			1		
35	2				2			
45								
55	1				1			
65 upwards.	1	1						
TOTALS:-	5	2	1	-	3	1	-	-

The above table of new cases occurring during the year under review does not, of course, represent the total number of tuberculous patients living in the Borough. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the town or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified cases were resident in the area at the end of 1954.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	41	25	66
Non-Pulmonary.	8	17	25
TOTAL:-	49	42	91

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

During the year a mobile X-Ray Unit visited the Works of the Westinghouse Brake & Signal Co, Ltd. A total of 2953 examinations of employees were made with the following results.

Active Tuberculosis found.	1 case
Inactive " "	30 cases
Other conditions, except tuberculosis	43 cases

It is hoped that a survey of the general public will be possible during the forthcoming year.

I am grateful to Mr. Phillips for the following information in connection with Water Supplies, Refuse Disposal and Sewage Disposal.

WATER SUPPLIES

Present Position

The Council's water undertaking has produced an average of 2,155,000 gallons per day during the year. This output is within the possible yield of the borehole sources at Westmead and Ivyfields, Chippenham.

The quantity and quality has been satisfactory. Precautionary chlorination of .2 parts per million continues to be carried out at the Council's Pumping Stations.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

During 1954 the distribution of the average daily output of the Undertaking may be approximately allocated as follows:-

Thousands of gallons per day,

Bulk supplies to the Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.	550
Bulk Supplies to Bradford & Melksham R.D.C.	55
Bulk Supplies to Trowbridge & Melksham Water Board	120
Bulk Supplies to Government Establishments in Hawthorn	440
Local Industrial Supplies	340
Chippenham area of supply	<u>650</u> <u>2,155</u>

Samples of raw water from each of the five boreholes in turn are being taken each week for bacteriological examination and samples are also taken from the water in supply every week for similar examination. Examinations have proved satisfactory with very few exceptions and chemical examinations have also shown no abnormality.

During 1954, arrangements have been made to afford a temporary supply of 200,000 gallons per day for the Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council's Eastern Area Supply Scheme by the installation of a pump at Westmead Pumping Station. This pump will raise the water from that station to the R.D.C.'s new reservoir at Bowden Hill. Regular supplies are now being afforded to this reservoir.

Extensions to the existing distribution systems have been made to afford water supplies to new Council houses and to new houses erected by private enterprise. The Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council are also laying mains which will enable them to take water from the Hawthorn Reservoir for the supplies in the area of Rudloe Village.

FUTURE SCHEMES.

During 1954, the deepening of No.3 Borehole at Ivyfields was completed as was the continuous 14 days test pumping. The results of the pump tests are now being considered by The Geological Survey, The Ministry of Housing and Local

WATER SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)

Government and the Council with a view to deciding whether or not commitments to a supply of some 4 million gallons per day can be undertaken by the Council. This figure of 4 million gallons per day will include additional supplies for the Eastern Areas Supply Scheme of the Calne & Chippenham R.D.C. and an additional 100,000 gallons per day for the Bradford Urban District Council, which are being considered by the Councils concerned. If such a commitment can be accepted and approved, capital works will be undertaken over a period of years to ensure that the commitments of the Town Council can be fulfilled.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection in the Borough continues to be carried out by 2 vehicles, a Lewin Compressing Refuse Collecting Machine and a covered Refuse Collecting Vehicle. The collection of house refuse is carried out weekly and trade refuse from business premises is also collected weekly. Additional collections are made at premises where food is being handled, such as cafes, food shops etc. This work is continually being revised and re-routed in order to deal with additional houses which have been erected and are being erected in the Borough.

Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites. The Cuttings, Bath Road and the dis-used river bed at Westmead. The latter site is used for summer tipping and the former during winter months. It is expected that the river site will be completed during the summer of 1955, and an alternative site for the summer of 1956 will be made available.

Nuisances continue to be controlled by covering the refuse with soil and used moulding sand from the local industrial works, and by the use of tip dressings and the frequent eradication of rats, in which work the assistance of the Senior Sanitary Inspector is acknowledged.

Kitchen Waste.

The Corporation continues to collect kitchen waste by the use of street bins in which householders deposit waste foods. The Council also continued the collection of food waste by means of individual bins loaned to householders. This method of collection has proved encouragingly successful and will be extended as and when labour can be made available to ensure regular collection of these individual bins.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Investigations preparatory to designing extensions and improvements to the Sewage Disposal Works, both at Patterdown and Westmead, are still in hand. The Borough Surveyor's Department, as a result of these investigations has been engaged in negotiating & arranging Trade Effluent Agreements with Local Industries. Trade Effluent Agreements have been concluded with some of the slaughterhouses, the Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co. and the local Tannery. Agreements are being negotiated with the local Wiltshire Bacon Co.'s Factory and with the Milk Factories of the district.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL (CONTINUED)

In the meantime, the best use of the Sewage Disposal Plant available is being obtained with the continued assistance of Mr. Hill, Sewage Works Chemist, of Corsham and the Surveyor's Department continues to co-operate as closely as possible with the officers of the River Board.

Sewers.

During the year extensions to the Sewerage System have been carried out to serve the development of sites by the Corporation and for the areas being developed for private enterprise houses. In all these areas the policy of obtaining a separate sewerage system as far as possible is being continued.

At the time of writing this report, work is being commenced on the Surface Water Drainage Scheme for the North-Eastern parts of the Borough with a view to preventing and alleviating flooding which has occurred in this area during past years. It is hoped by continuing the policy of taking away from the soil sewers as much as possible of the surface water, the older sewers of the town will be enabled to continue to serve the district for some years to come.

Concurrently with other works, examination of the Council's sewers is carried out with a view to recommendation being made to the Council to improving the existing sewerage system.

LEGISLATION.

During 1954 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important were the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954 and the Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular concerning Slum Clearance.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Puerperal Pyrexia(Amendment) Regulations, 1954 | - | These Regulations made by the Minister of Health came into operation on the 1st. March, 1954 and amend the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951 by prescribing a new form of certificate for the notification by a medical practitioner of cases of puerperal pyrexia. The new form requires the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated. |
| Ministry of Health Circular 8/54 (Prevention of Tuberculosis) | - | This circular directed the issue of a memorandum to the Medical Officer of Health and Chest Physicians reviewing the value of existing measures to bring tuberculosis under control. |
| Slaughterhouse Act, 1954. | - | This Act came into force on the 5th. July, 1954. Local Authorities are now responsible for the time being for ensuring that adequate slaughtering facilities are available and for the grant of and renewal of licences in respect thereof etc. |
| Food & Drugs Amendment Act, 1954 | - | Apart from Sec. 28 which makes certain provisions governing the restricting of private slaughterhouses, the remainder of the Act will not come into force until the early part of 1955. |
| The Slaughter of Animals(Prevention of Cruelty) (No.2) Regns. 1954. | - | These regulations came into force on the 1st. December 1954 and are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards. |
| Ministry of Food Circular MF 4/54 | - | Concerns slaughtering facilities to be made by Local Authorities on the decontrol of meat and live-stock. |
| Ministry of Food Circular MF 5/54 | - | Concerns the licensing and provision of slaughter-houses. |

LEGISLATION (CONTINUED)

- Ministry of Food Circular MF 10/54 - Public Health(Meat) Regulations, 1924-1952 Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.
- Housing Repairs & Rents Act,1954 - This Act came into force on the 30th. August. Inter alia, the Council is required to submit to the Minister of Housing & Local Govern-ment within the next 12 months its proposals for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition.
- Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular 75/54 - Slum Clearance Procedure.
- Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular 8/54 - Rivers(Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1954.

The National Assistance Act, 1948
Sec. 47 Removal to suitable premises of persons
in need of care and attention.

No statutory action was taken during the year under the provisions of this Act.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following children received primary immunisations during 1954.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>
94	179	17
<u>TOTAL:- 290</u>		

Total immunised child population as at 31.12.54.

<u>Ages 0-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
639	2429	3068

VACCINATION

The following children were vaccinated during 1954:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-15 and over</u>
127	6	5
<u>TOTAL:- 138</u>		

THE AGEING POPULATION.

There is no satisfactory definition of old age. The reduction of mental and physical capacity associated with old age begins much earlier than the artificial ages of retirement.

It has been estimated that one in seven of the population are of pensionable age, and a Census in 1951 showed that one house in fifteen consists of one person aged 60 years or more. This increase in the number of aged in our midst is due to economic and social progress and great advances in the field of Public Health and curative medicine.

Although there has been some increase in the expectation of life, this is not the principle cause of the increase; more people are now reaching old age, an infrequent event in the past.

There is no doubt that the care of the aged constitutes a social and economic problem which will make increasing demands on the younger and producing members of the community in the future. It is desirable to encourage and prolong the mental and physical activities of the elderly, and some form of productive employment, however simple, is of great assistance to this end. It is of little value to the individual if having attained a healthy old age, he finds himself unwanted, neglected and divorced from the community.

The parents of young families are frequently unable to include their parents in the family unit owing to housing difficulties. My own experience is that young couples are better living alone. I frequently hear of the domestic problems which arise when attempts are made to live with the respective father or mother-in-law. It is preferable that the elderly should live in their own homes and every attempt should be made to further this objective. However attractive Welfare Accommodation may be, or however comfortable and efficient our hospital service, in my opinion, they do not replace the very natural desire of all of us to remain under our own roof.

During 1954 it was not found necessary to take action under the National Assistance Act, 1948 for the removal of a person to a suitable hospital or Institution.

REPORT

of the

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Members
 of the Chippenham Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work
carried out in my Department during the year 1954.

The tables and particulars conform to the Ministry's
Regulations and requirements.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S.F. FRENCH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

906 inspections were made of 405 premises in connection with Housing and Nuisances, and as a result 141 notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances and housing repairs. 4 Statutory Notices were served and complied with.

CLOSET CONVERSIONS

When the year closed, the Hill Corner scheme was in progress. This involved the conversion of 24 pail closets to water closets and the installation of water supply and sinks. The work was being carried out by the Council's Contractors at the request of all the owners concerned.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1954.

1. Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.
 - (a) By Local Authority 76
 - (b) Private Enterprise 57
2. Inspection of Dwellings during the year
 - (i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts 25
 - (ii) " " " " " Housing " 271
 - (iii) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 12
 - (iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 92
3. Remedy of defects by Informal Action.

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action. 82
4. Action under Statutory Powers(Public Health & Housing Acts)
 - A. Proceedings under Section 9,10, & 16 of Housing Act 1936.
 - (i) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied NONE
 - (ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices
 - (a) By Owners NONE
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners NONE
 - B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 - (i) Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served. 3
 - (ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices.
 - (a) By Owners 3
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners NONE

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HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1954 (Continued)

C. Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act 1936

(i) Number of Demolition Orders made	1
(ii) Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	2
(iii) Number of undertakings accepted	1
(iv) Number of undertakings completed.	1

D. Proceedings under Section 25 & 26 Housing Act 1936

(i) Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	NONE
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	NONE

E. Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 1936

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	NONE
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit	NONE

5. HOUSING ACT, 1936 Part IV - Overcrowding

(i) Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	18
(ii) Number of cases discovered during year	9
(iii) Number of cases abated during year	13

We are fortunate in this area in that overcrowding does not cause us serious concern. Our records show one case of overcrowding in non-Council houses and seventeen in Council houses at the close of the year

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The following sites were used during the year:-

Foghamshire	3
Bath Road	2
Saltersford	3
Hungerdown Lane	1
Derriads Lane	3
Patterdown	1
Hardenhuish Lane	2
Council's site-	
Greenway Lane	4

Frequent inspections are made of these sites, which, generally speaking, are well maintained.

All the above caravans are used as dwelling-houses.

The problem of the use of unsuitable sites in this area is a small one in comparison with other places.

With the improvement in the housing situation there is not the same demand for sites for residential caravans.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS (CONTINUED)

The Council have, however, decided to proceed with the preparation of a site for 4 caravans at Bath Road and it is hoped this will be ready and occupied during 1955.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of</u>		
		<u>Insps.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
<u>PREMISES</u>				
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	25	9	2	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7. is enforced by the Local Authority.	64	45	6	-
3. Other Premises in which Sec.7. is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	89	54	8	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To HM Insp.</u>	<u>By HM Insp.</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	6	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	10	10	-	2	-

It was found necessary to take up the question of the excessive emission of smoke from a dairy factory chimney with the Management. It was considered the nuisance was the result of very heavy boiler loading aggravated by the fact that unsuitable fuel was drafted in to meet the extraordinary conditions.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection was carried out in 23 homes and one school after infectious diseases. Bedding and similar articles are treated by steam or destroyed when this is considered necessary. No charge is made for fumigation or steam disinfection when this is done because of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

Some cases of verminous infestations were dealt with by the use of D.D.T. and Gammexane Insecticides.

RODENT CONTROL

The methods used have, on the whole, become standardised throughout the country, and are as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Warfarin, A.N.T.U., and Red Squill.

The sewers, brooks and sewage outfall works are now treated as a routine measure twice yearly, the refuse tip is closely watched and treated as often as may be necessary.

The following details are in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

	Type of Property				Agricultural
	Local Authy.	Dwelling Houses (inc. Cncl Houses).	All Other (inc. Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1 2 & 3.	
1. Number of properties in L.A.'s Dist. (Notes 1 & 2)	14	4447	595	5056	17
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	32	13	45	3
(b) Survey under the Act	8	32	10	50	4
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	250	130	380	-
3. Total inspections carried out -incl. re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	30	343	187	560	10

RODENT CONTROL (CONTINUED)

	Type of Property				Agric- ultural
	Local Authy.	Non - Agricultural		Total of Cols.1 2 & 3.	
		Dwelling Houses (inc. Cncl. Houses).	All other (inc. Business Premises)		
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats(Major.	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor.	6	32	12	50	3
(b) Mice(Major.	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor.	-	5	4	9	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4)treated by the LA (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sec. 4).	6	35	15	56	2
5. Total Treatments carried out incl. re-treatments(To be completed only if figures are readily available.	11	36	21	68	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Both Bacon Factories continued to maintain the heavy slaughtering of the last few years. The Wiltshire Bacon Company, during the year, slaughtered some 104,965 pigs on their premises. Messrs. Spear Bros. & Clark killed 11,601.

The emergency arrangements for the use of two slaughterhouses by the Ministry of Food came to an end on June 30th. Local Authorities were made responsible for securing that sufficient slaughtering accommodation was available after decontrol.

The Council met and discussed with the Chippenham Retail Butchers' Federation various proposals for the slaughtering of cattle for the area. As a result the Council took over the leases and let the premises to an association formed by the local butchers (including a number whose retail shops are in the Rural District). This arrangement worked out very well.

As I have pointed out on a number of occasions, the two slaughterhouses were never designed for the heavy slaughtering to which they were subject during the years of emergency.

With the reduction in the kill it is much easier to maintain a higher standard of hygiene than when the premises were under Ministry control.

The slaughtering policy for the future is still very much in the air. The Interdepartmental Committee appointed by the Government found it necessary to issue an interim report when the Government announced its decision to decontrol meat. The announcement of a long term policy therefore is likely to be somewhat delayed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (CONTINUED)

The vehicles used for the transport of meat in this area have been maintained in fair condition.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1954.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>exclg. cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep,</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
No. killed (if known)	1388	475	783	5831	117058
Number inspected	1388	475	783	5831	117058
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	9	53	13	72
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	196	117	54	326	2967
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	14.12	26.52	13.66	5.81	2.59

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	6	4	-	-	69
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	101	52	-	-	4651
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.70	11.78	-	-	4.03

MEAT CONDEMNED (HOME KILLED) DURING 1954.

<u>BOVINES</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>L.</u>
19 Carcasses	4	15	1	15
17 Forequarters	1	2	0	20
3 Hindquarters		4	2	27
109 Heads	1	11	0	16
249 Livers plus 84 part livers		9	0	23
107 Plucks		14	0	16
18 Spleens			1	10
19 Skirts			1	11
Meat		14	1	9
Other Offal		19	2	1
<u>PIGS</u>				
141 Carcasses	9	0	3	1
2112 Heads	12	11	2	21
Meat	5	14	0	12
Other Offal	29	2	2	0
<u>SHEEP</u>				
13 Carcasses		6	1	18
Meat		1	2	7
Offal		6	1	20
<u>CALVES</u>				
53 Carcasses	1	1	0	18
Veal				12
Offal				4
TOTAL:-	68 tons	16 cwts.	0 grs.	9 lbs.

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS. - MEAT

88 lbs. tinned luncheon meat
 29 " " veal
 41 " " ham
 45 " " beef
 4 " " pork
 61 tins various meats
 33 lbs. bacon.

FRUIT

611 tins fruit.

VEGETABLES.

359 tins Vegetables.

FISH

38 tins Fish
 14 lbs. Bloaters
 14 lbs. Smoked Haddock.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Routine examination of beef carcasses and organs is carried out to detect the parasite of Cysticercus Bovis as required by the Ministry of Food. Cysticercus Bovis is the cystic stage of taenia saginata, the tapeworm of man. During the year 13 cases were found, the cysts being located in the head in 8 cases and in the heart in 5 cases. Where infestation is localised, the part of the carcass or the organ affected is rejected as unfit for human consumption; the remainder of the carcass is placed in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20°F for a period of three weeks, and then released for human consumption. Failing refrigeration, the entire carcass and offal is rejected.

FOOD HYGIENE.

453 inspections were made of premises preparing and retailing foodstuffs. Matters dealt with included provision of washing facilities, cleanliness of premises, utensils etc. and the hygienic wrapping of foodstuffs. Constant supervision is exercised over the stalls retailing foodstuffs in the weekly Market.

Progress in maintaining improvements in food premises in the district was satisfactory during 1954. No formal action was required under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and occupiers of shop premises willingly co-operated following inspection and advice.

Dogs are now seldom seen in the kitchens of food premises and more food is stored under improved conditions. Greater use is being made of refrigerators and properly covered storage.

Details of Food Premises in the District.

Bakers	7	General Grocery,	
Butchers	15	Provisions etc.	43
Bacon Factories	2	Hotels & licensed	
Cafes & Restaurants	15	Premises	34
Confectioners	8		<u>152</u>
Dairies	8		
Fish Fryers & Fish-Mongers	9		
Fruiterers & Green Grocers	11		

MILK

151 tins milk
 1 tin milk beverage.

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.

14 tins soup
 8 jars jam
 1 jar pickles
 4 bottles orange juice
 1 tin tomato juice
 11 lbs. slab cake
 8 pkts. cheese spread
 3 pkts. dessicated coconut
 2 pkts. Haricot Beans.
 5 lbs. Flour.

FOOD HYGIENE (CONTINUED)

Premises registered under Food & Drugs Act, 1938 Sec. 14.

Preparation or manufacture of sausages potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.	20
Manufacture and sale of Ice Cream (only one manufactured during the year)	5
Sale of ice-cream only	41

Method of disposal of condemned food.

All carcasses and offals found at the Bacon Factories and Slaughterhouses to be unfit for human consumption are mutilated and dyed prior to disposal for processing. Other foodstuffs are collected & disposed of on Council's Refuse Tip.

It is hoped that the registration provisions of the Food & Drugs Act will be extended to include further food trades, although this is being actively opposed by the trades concerned. One has only to compare the number of sample passes today in the icecream trade with the results of a few years ago to see what can be done when Local Authorities are given the necessary control.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of registered Dairies	8
Number of registered Distributors	9
Number of Registered Distributors with premises outside the Borough	2
Number of "T.T." Dealers' Licences	7
Number of "T.T." Supplementary Dealers' Licences	2
Number of Pasteurised Dealers' Licences	5
Number of Pasteurisation Plants	2
Number of "T.T." samples examined (Methylene Blue)	200
Number of Biological samples examined	14
Number of inspections made during the year	86

Of the 200 samples of T.T. milks taken, 15 failed the standard required by the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/50. Failures were notified to the County Milk Regulations Officer in order that investigations could be made on the producers' premises by the Milk Production Advisory Officers. Of the 14 samples taken for biological tests, the reports showed "T.B. not present" in every case.

A check on the efficiency of milk bottle cleansing resulted in a number being submitted for bacteriological examination. Nine of these were found to be unsatisfactory which necessitated follow up procedure, with an improvement in results.

All too often milk bottles are seen dumped in bad surroundings, used for other purposes, and returned in dirty condition. The most efficient and best supervised plant will be sorely tried in dealing with these misused bottles. Householders should be advised to rinse milk bottles directly they are emptied. Notices to this effect could be delivered to the houses by the dairyman, and this too would be in the public health interest.

Some housewives practice the bad habit of leaving full milk bottles on their doorsteps throughout an entire morning exposed to the sun and then wonder why the milk sours quickly.

No notices were served during the year under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

ICE-CREAM.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale(only one manufactured during the year)	5
Number of premises registered for sale only	41
Premises from which ice-cream is sold but exempt from registration	2
Inspection of premises	97
Number of samples	69

The bacteriological standard was good. All 69 samples were placed in grades 1 or 2. Grade 1 gave the excellent percentage of 90%.

Ice-cream is no longer prepared as it was a few years ago, but must now be manufactured and sold in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority. Premises are inspected before registration, regular visits are made and the ice-cream sampled regularly.

